

## Message Text

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SUBJ: US-SWISS ACADEMIC EXCHANGE ARRANGEMENTS

REF: A) STATE 241143; B) STATE 213398

1. TOGETHER WITH DR PORHANSL FROM VIENNA I HAD VERY HELPFUL MEETING LAST WEEK WITH DR STAUFFER OF FPD, AND HIS ASSISTANT DR RUF WHO HANDLES EXCHANGE PROGRAMS FOR SWISS GOVT. A NUMBER OF POINTS WERE CLARIFIED.

2. DURING COURSE OF DISCUSSION ABOUT PROGRAM TO BRING SWISS STUDENTS TO US, KEY QUESTION AROSE WHETHER US GRANTS WERE FULLY GUARANTEED STATE DEPT GRANTS COVERING TUITION, MAINTENANCE, TRANSPORTATION AND ALLOWANCES. ON ASSUMPTION THIS IS THE CASE, WOULD GRANTS ALSO COVER COST OF TESTS REQUIRED UNDER OUR PROCEDURE? ARE GRE TESTS REQUIRED OF ALL CANDIDATES IN ADDITION TO TOEFL?

3. SELECTION PROCEDURES FOR SWISS GRANTEES WAS DISCUSSED EXTENSIVELY. IT WOULD BE USEFUL IN THIS CONNECTION TO KNOW WHAT, IF ANY, REQUIREMENTS THE USG IMPOSES FOR ITS SELECTION PROCESS, AND WHETHER DEPT PREPARED TO DEFRAY COSTS INCURRED IN SELECTION PROCESS. WE TENTATIVELY CONCLUDED THAT THE TECHNICAL DETAILS WOULD PROBABLY BEST BE HANDLED BY MRS HILVERT, WHO RUNS THE SWISS-US STUDENT EXCHANGE, A SUBORDINATE UNIT OF THE SWISS SCHOOLS COUNCIL (SCHWEIZERISCHER SCHULRAT), WHICH IS AN INSTRUMENTALITY OF THE SWISS FEDERAL GOVT. MRS HILVERT HAS FOR MANY YEARS PROCESSED THE APPLICATIONS FOR THE TEN SO-CALLED UNCLASSIFIED

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CANTONAL SCHOLARSHIPS, AND SHE WOULD PLAN, FOR THE INITIAL STAGE,

TO FOLLOW THE SAME SELECTION PROCEDURES. IN THE PST, SHE HAS PERSONALLY INTERVIEWED ALL CANDIDATES LIVING IN THE ZURICH AREA, SUPPLEMENTING THIS WITH PERSONAL COMMENTS FROM PROFESSORS; IN CASE OF STUDENTS LIVING IN GENEVA OR OTHER MORE DISTANT AREAS SHE HAS RELIED EXCLUSIVE ON COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PROFESSORS AND NO INTERVIEWS HAVE TAKEN PLACE. (INTERVIEWS MIGHT BE ARRANGED FOR ALL APPLICANTS FOR OUR THREE GRANTS). PRELIMINARY REPORTS ON EACH APPLICANT PREPARED BY MRS HILVERT WERE THEN PRESENTED TO A FINAL SELECTION COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF MRS HILVERT AND A PROMINENT PROFESSOR OR TWO.

4. FOR OUR THREE GRANTS, IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT THE FINAL SELECTION COMMITTEE MIGHT CONSIST OF MRS HILVERT, A REPRESENTATIVE FROM SWISS ACADEMIC CIRCLES, A U.S. PROFESSOR RESIDENT IN SWITZERLAND, A SWISS FOREIGN OFFICE REP. AND THE PAO. PROCEDURE OUTLINED HERE WOULD HAVE THE VIRTUE OF RELATIVELY SIMPLICITY LARGELY USING AN EXISTING, TESTED MECHANISM.

5. SINCE MANY US INSTITUTIONS REQUIRE DEGREE PROGRAMS INVOLVING MORE THAN 10-12 MONTHS STUDY, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO KNOW WHAT SORT OF PROGRAMS PROSPECTIVE SWISS GRADUATE STUDENTS COULD LOOK FORWARD TO.

6. SWISS ARE ANXIOUS TO START THEIR PROGRAM OF BRINGING US STUDENTS TO SWITZERLAND IN 1976, AS THEIR "BICENTENNIAL CONTRIBUTION". FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS WITH MRS HILVERT, IT ALSO SEEMS FEASIBLE, IF RELATIVELY SIMPLE SELECTION PROCEDURE OUTLINED ABOVE IS FOLLOWED, TO ARRANGE FOR SELECTION OF SWISS GRANTEES IN TIME FOR 1976-1977 ACADEMIC YEAR ALSO. REQUEST THE DEPT'S THINKING RE TIMING OF PROGRAM FOR SWISS STUDENTS.  
KEMPE

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